

RESTRICTION PRESENTED

The claims have been restricted into the following groups of inventions:

- Group I. Claims 1-6, 8 and 9 drawn to a method of differentiating mesenchymal stem cells.
- Group II. Claim 10, drawn to a non-human animal carrying the steroid producing cells of claim 5.

APPLICANTS' ELECTION

Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I, claims 1-6, 8 and 9, drawn to a method of differentiating mesenchymal stem cells for prosecution at this time.

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are pending in the subject U.S. patent application. Claims 1-6 and 8-10 have been subjected to a Restriction/Election Requirement. In response to the Restriction/Election Requirement, Applicants have elected the claims of Group I, claims 1-6, 8, and 9 for prosecution at this time. Claim 10 is withdrawn from prosecution. Applicants hereby reserve the right to file one or more divisional patent applications directed to the unelected subject matter.

CONCLUSIONS

Should there be any minor issues outstanding in this matter the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney. Early passage of the subject application to issue is earnestly solicited.

Serial No.: 10/591,530

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

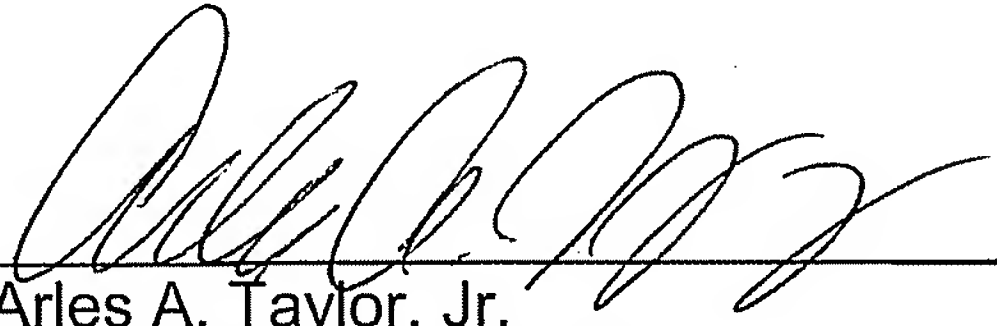
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account Number **50-0426**.

Respectfully submitted,

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